CLAIMS:

1.   A system for producing a document comprising:

a repository for storing documents in a marked-up form according to one or more mark-up schemas adapted to make explicit the structural information contained a document;

a document format store for storing formats; and

a document production processor for generating a user-requested document from said respective marked-up form using a user-selected format, said generated document retaining said implicit structural information.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein a said schema includes minor structural mark-up elements which must flow in said generated document.

3.   The system of claim 2, wherein said minor structural elements include one or more of words, characters, paragraphs, numbered paragraphs or special paragraphs.

4.   The system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said formats are a set of rules having parameters capable of user replacement.

5.   The system of claim 4, wherein said parameters result in a format of any one or more of: variable paragraph or word shapes, variable paragraph spacing, variable character height, variable character width, variable font colour, variable background colour, use of colour for differing classes of words, variable character density, variable margin sizes, use of optically corrected font, use of shaded font, variable line length, variable line spacing, use of separators between lines of text and use of patterns in characters or words.

6.   The system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said stored documents and said formats are in the form of XML files, and said production processor creates an XML:FO style sheet from said XML format file, creates an XML:FO file from said XML document and said style sheet, and generates an output file from said XML:FO file representing said user-requested document.

7.   A method of producing a document comprising the steps of:

marking-up a document according to a schema that makes explicit the

structural information contained in said document;

applying a user selected format to said marked-up document; and

generating a user-requested document using a user selected format, said generated document retaining said implicit structural information.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein a said schema includes minor structural mark-up elements which must flow in said generated document.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said minor structural elements include one or more of words, characters, paragraphs, numbered paragraphs or special paragraphs.

10. The method of any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein said formats are a set of rules having parameters capable of user replacement.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said parameters result in a format of any one or more of: variable paragraph or word shapes, variable paragraph spacing, variable character height, variable character width, variable font colour, variable background colour, use of colour for differing classes of words, variable character density, variable margin sizes, use of optically corrected font, use of shaded font, variable line length, variable line spacing, use of separators between lines of text and use of patterns in characters or words.

12. The method of any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein said stored documents and said formats are in the form of XML files, and said generating step includes creating an XML:FO style sheet from said XML format file, creating an XML:FO file from said XML document and said style sheet, and generating an output file from said XML:FO file representing said user-requested document.

13. A system for producing and distributing a document comprising:

a server site including a repository for storing documents in a marked-up form according to one or more mark-up schemas adapted to make explicit the structural information contained in a document, a document format store for storing formats, and a document production processor for generating a user-requested document from said marked-up form using a user-selected format, the generated document retaining said implicit structural information;

a network to which said server site is in communication; and

a printing site to which said user requested document is sent via said network to be printed.

14.   The system of claim 12, wherein said printing site coincides with said user.

15.   A method for producing and distributing documents comprising the steps of:
marking-up documents according to a schema that makes explicit the structural information contained in said document;
receiving a customer order for a document over an electronic network, said order including formatting information;
applying a customer-selected format containing said formatting information to said marked-up document;
generating a customer-requested formatted document in electronic form using said format, the generated document retaining said implicit structural information; and
transmitting said electronic document over said network.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein said transmitted document is received by said customer.

17.   The method of claim 15, wherein said transmitted document is received by a printing site that prints said requested document for forwarding to said customer.

18.   The method of claim 17, wherein said customer order specifies a printing site being of closest geographically to said customer.

19.   The method of claim 17, wherein said customer order includes said customer's geographical location, and the method includes the further step of choosing a printing site that is geographically closest to said customer.

20.   The method of claim 17, wherein said customer order includes the price the customer is willing to pay, and the method includes the further step of choosing a printing site that offers a production and transport cost that meets the price.

21.   The method of claim 17, wherein said customer order includes the length of time that the customer is willing to wait for the document, and the method further includes the step of choosing a printing site that can produce and transport the document

to the customer to meet that wait time.

22.   A document rendered to have a pattern created in the characters and/or words.

5   23.   A document rendered such that each page is differently formatted.

24.   A document rendered such that mirror image and rotationally equivalent forms of letters are differently formatted.

10   25.   A document rendered such that similarly shaped characters are differently formatted.

26.   A document according to claim 25, where said characters include the letter and number pairs: 'c' and 'e', '8' and '3', '6' and '8', 'i' and 'j', 'm' and 'n', and 'w' and

15   'v'.

27.   A document rendered such that the space around lines of text but not immediately adjacent the characters is shaded.

20   28.   A document according to any one of claims 22 to 27 produced by the system of any one of claims 1 to 6.

29.   A document according to any one of claims 22 to 27 produced by the method of any one of claims 7 to 12.